Crew pride runs high

By Inta Rizijs

"Terrific" is how the UNL Men's Crew Coach Matt Kush describes the shape his team is in. With 20 returning rowers, and some money in the bank, Kush said he believes the team will be the strongest ever.

"In the past we haven't had a lot of continuity. This year we do," Kush said.

Along with a strong varsity, the crew team prides itself on having the keep

team prides itself on having the best equipment in the world, Kush said. At \$10,000 a shell and \$200 per oar, crew becomes an expensive sport. The team now has about 10 shells and about 70 oars. The cost of insurance and travel is above the equipment costs, he said.

Kush said he admits that in the past the major weakness of the club has been finances.

"It takes a lot of hard work to keep us afloat," Kush said.

This is the first time in the crew team's history that they have started the season with money in the bank. The crew team receives no financial support from the university, he said.

"We're not bitter about it because we have overcome the obstacle," Kush said. "I'd like to invite every student over to

the boathouse to see what has been put together by students. Every dime has been raised by them and we operate like a miniature athletic department."

Uniforms and travel expenses come out of the athletes' own pockets, he said.

Kush said that the crew team often is lumped with the other club sports, however, it is very separate from them.

"We're not only involved in just training but also in running and building up the program," he said.

The level of competition is also separate from other club sports, he said. The competition isn't against other crew clubs, but against major universities, such as Harvard.

"At Harvard, football isn't a joke but rowing is definitely their sport," Kush said.

Nebraska's team competes against other teams with full-time coaches and well established programs, he said.

"The Wisconsin Crew Team has been rowing over one hundred years." Kush said he sees rowing at Nebraska as a "Cinderella Story."

"I've seen the whole thing grow and we've done it as students — not as an athletic department," he said.

Runner tries cross country

By Jeff DeGraw

For Lisa Kramer, the most important moments in her running career were during her senior year in high school.

"My parents told me to try something in high school, and track was the only thing left. I went out for the team and really enjoyed it," she said.

Kramer, a junior on the UNL women's track team will be attempting her first year of cross-country this fall. Mononucleosis kept her from competing her freshman year, while personal problems interfered with last year's season.

"I'm really excited about this year," she said. "I've put in a lot of miles this year and participated in some summer road races. I feel that I'm in good shape to start the season."

Kramer said her goal is to qualify for the national meet. This year's meet is scheduled at the University of Washington Nov. 15. "I have only two years left in college and I would like to make the best of them. I've really enjoyed track so I'm really looking forward to this year."

Kramer has recorded personal bests of 4:30 for the 1,500 meters and a 2:11 for 800 meters. She said she is hoping to improve these times with the addition of her cross country training and racing.

She has met new track coach Gary Pepin and said she is impressed with him. She said she thinks Pepin will be good for the program.

"I'm anxious to work with Coach Pepin because of his knowledge of track and field."

Kramer, an agronomy major, said she thinks the late start she got in her running career was a blessing in disguise.

"I have been relatively injury free and I don't feel burned out as some people do who have been running since junior high."



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